



Washington State Department of Agriculture

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WSDA alerts growers to poor air conditions for fumigation

OLYMPIA – Due to unfavorable weather conditions, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is urging farmers to be careful when making soil fumigation applications in much of Eastern Washington.

According to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency label restrictions, fumigant applicators must be aware of air conditions at a site before work begins and also be aware of weather forecasts for the duration of the application.

“Current inversion conditions east of the Cascades may cause soil fumigation vapors to move off target and violate federal restricted-use pesticide labels,” said Cliff Weed, pesticide compliance program manager for WSDA. “We know other fumigation efforts will take place soon in the Columbia Basin area and we urge applicators with questions about pesticide labels to contact their local farm chemical fieldman or the state Department of Agriculture.”

The general number for label advice at WSDA headquarters in Olympia is (360) 902-2040.

WSDA is currently investigating allegations of human exposure from a fumigant application conducted on Sept. 27 in Desert Aire, south of Mattawa in Grant County.

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